

(Richard Chafee.) Thank you. As a United States citizen and as owner of Jack's Truck & Equipment, I would like to address the BLM in regards to the return on the investment to the taxpayers for coal leases and the environmental impact of mining coal. It's my understanding that the taxes being paid by the mine companies to mine and sell coal add up to a rate of 39 percent. That leaves the remaining 61 percent to be used to cover business expenses, which would hopefully be under that amount. If so, there would be a profit to the company for doing the mining which would be subjected to another 39 percent income tax. Then all the mining employees who are paid income out of the company expenses would also pay their respective income taxes, their Social Security tax, and their Medicare tax. Additionally, if you consider the sales tax that's paid on goods purchased by the mines' employees and the fuel taxes paid on the fuel they purchase, it makes a person wonder how much of every dollar actually does not end up being a tax. As a U.S. citizen, I do not think this is fair. I think we the people are being grossly overtaxed and so are these mines. I think the question of wondering if the taxpayer is receiving a fair rate of return from leasing federal coal is not the correct question. I think perhaps the correct question is what is happening to all the taxpayers' money? Secondly, tell me how we can subsidize the wind energy, subsidize the solar energy industry and yet nothing for clean coal technology? Did you know American uses around 170 percent more coal now than it was in 1970 and yet producing 90 percent fewer emissions. That is an environmental success story. Consider this. Coal producing low-cost affordable energy while producing zero emissions without being subsidized. I think that the true reality is we can lower the cost of money to coal by lowering taxes paid for it. This would give the renewable industry the funds they need to perfect their products without breaking the taxpayer. Why should we pay those industries subsidies when they obviously don't need them. The coal industry did not need them and does not need them. They just need less tax. Let's stop taking money from the coal industry and giving it to the renewable industry. That is not fair. If anything, we need to use tax money generated by the coal mines to subsidize coal clean -- clean coal technology. When the renewable energy companies figure out how to make their product reliable and affordable, it will

sell. That is a fact of economics. The coal industry has already figured that out. (Applause.)